

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1

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ICPIC

Military Information from Neuruppin

EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

July and 1 to 15 August 1952

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 19 September 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 12 August 1952, the See Kaserne on Karl Liebknecht Strasse in Neuruppin (N 53/Z 49) was occupied to capacity. Fifteen 120-mm mortars with which groups of seven men each were doing service of the piece drill, were seen in the area of the installation.

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On 12 August, the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on Fehrbelliner Strasse was occupied to capacity. Twelve 122-mm field howitzers and model M-13 rocket launcher were seen in the yard of the installation. (1)

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2. On 12 August, about 50 JS-3 tanks and 20 T-34/35 tanks were seen in assembly positions in groups of 3 to 5 tanks in the wooded area west of Lake Tornow, north of Neuruppin. Thirteen 122-mm field howitzers were seen in open firing positions and 12 others in a defilade position in this area. About 30 tanks, most of them T-34/35 tanks, but also some JS-2 tanks and JSU-122 guns, were seen on a clearing west of the Altruppin-Zippelsfoerde road.

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Between 4 and 5 p.m. on 1 August, a pontoon bridge, 30 meters long, was seen on Lake Molchow. Trucks and soldiers wearing red-bordered black epauletts were seen near this bridge. About 60 SP guns on JS-249 chassis were parked in two rows on the bank of Lake Molchow.

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About 100 meters from the bridge, a float consisting of five double pontoons was towed across the lake. About 80 tanks, mostly T-34/35 tanks, were seen in a clearing about 300 meters from the lake.

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4. Prior to 20 July, [] observations at

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a. [] 12th Gds Tank Div. The deputy commanding officer of this unit, Gds Lieutenant Colonel (Adm) Balashov (fnu), was on leave in the U.S.S.R. during the reported period. His deputy was Gds Major Trushkov (fnu). [] was still located in the former military post hospital at the intersection of Karl Liebknecht Strasse and Fehrbelliner Strasse.

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b. The Friedrich Kaserne quartered the following units: [] called Unit Nikitin after its administrative officer Gds Lieutenant Colonel Nikitin (fnu). The commanding officer of this unit was Gds Lieutenant Colonel Kovalev (fnu).

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[] called Unit Dyukov, after its administrative officer Gds Lieutenant Colonel Dyukov (fnu). Commanding officer of this unit was Gds Lieutenant Colonel Zukhikh (fnu).

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[] From accounts of this unit, [] it was a repair shop unit which, although independent with regard to administrative matters, was assigned either to a unit of Gds Lieutenant Colonel (Adm) Grebenshchikov (fnu) or a unit which was under the command of Gds Lieutenant Colonel (Adm) Zadorozin (fnu). [] the same applies to Unit Fedonenko which also was a repair shop unit.

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c. Administrative officer Dobrovolsky (fnu) [] told [] that the unit had at present a strength of only 204 men and that there was only little activity in the unit. (1) At the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on Fehrbelliner Strasse, [] Unit [] under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Zultanov (fnu) was an AAA unit. Soldiers wearing artillery insignia, 3 canvas-covered AA guns and 4 trucks [] were seen in the billeting area of this unit. (1)

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d. The district komendatura moved to 19/21 Secufer Strasse. The operational group previously quartered there left for an unknown location. (3).

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5. On 4 August, the Schuetzenhaus in Neuruppin quartered [] which consisted of 30 to 90 men. Lieutenant (Adm) Komaroff (fnu) of this unit was replaced by one Lieutenant Kurov (fnu). Chief of staff of this unit is said to be one Major Khromenko (fnu). Vouchers of this unit are sent to Fuerstenberg. Vehicles [] were seen in the billeting area of the [] (4)

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6. During the period from 6 through 8 August, the Friedrich Franz Kaserne was occupied to capacity. In the evening, the windows of all quartering buildings were lighted. [] young soldiers arrived at the installation during the night of 4 August or on 5 August. On 6 August, about 30 men were observed doing service of the piece drill with four 122-mm field howitzers, while 50 men were engaged in athletics. Twelve trucks []

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[redacted] were parked in the barracks yard. Two and four field howitzers were seen on 7 and 3 August respectively. [redacted] a 122-mm mortar and transporting 20 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets entered the barracks installation. [redacted] (1)

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On 6 August, two quartering buildings of the See Kaserne were occupied to capacity. In the evening, all the windows of these buildings were fully lighted. [redacted] most of the training activities of this unit were conducted in the cantonment on Scholten Platz. On 6 August, about 40 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets were being trained with four 120-mm mortars and with a battery commander's telescope at this cantonment. Four other 120-mm mortars and 5 model M-13 rocket launchers were parked there. On 3 August, the AAA emplacement on Scholten Strasse was occupied by six 37-mm AA guns. Forty-five men were seen engaged in sports. (1)

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On 7 August, the Fridericus Kaserne was occupied to capacity. In the evening, all the buildings of the installation were lighted. Six T-34 tanks were parked in the barracks yard. A fuel dump with about 200 drums and about 25 trucks was observed on the north side of the installation. (1)

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On 3 August, a convoy consisting of 2 sedans and 3 trucks loaded with billeting equipment was proceeding from Neuruppin toward Altruppin. [redacted]

On 4 August, 5 T-34 tanks [redacted] other tanks were seen in the wooded area east of Wittstocker Allee, 100 meters north of Kuhburgsberg.

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On 23 July, 60 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen being trained with eight T-34/35 tanks [redacted] at the Storbeck tank target range near Neuruppin. The eight tanks which were spaced about 100 meters apart and advanced from the southeastern section of the range toward the northwest, each firing 5 to 6 rounds from its gun and short bursts from its machine gun towards the edge of a woods. The 60 soldiers advanced simultaneously with the tanks, keeping up with the tanks by running forward while the tanks were firing. When the infantry soldiers were in line with the tanks, the tanks again advanced 100 to 150 meters. They were again followed by the infantry. The wooded area in the northwestern section of the range was reached after this procedure had been repeated five times. The exercise which started at 6 p.m. was completed at 7:30 p.m. However, the firing of tanks was heard throughout the night. At 4:30 a.m. on 29 July, the tanks returned to Neuruppin, [redacted] to the See Kaserne. After mid-July, nine low wooden temporary buildings each with a capacity of about 60 men and a kitchen were being constructed near Kleiner Kuhburgsberg, immediately east of Storbeck, north of the Neuruppin-Wittstock road. (2)

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On 23 July, [redacted] about 150 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets constructing a pontoon bridge over Lake Molchow, immediately north of Neumuehle, 2.6 km north of the Altruppin railroad station. On the western bank of the lake, 10 pontoons covered with planks had already been placed in the water. The shore section of a bridge was being built on the eastern bank of the lake. Another 10 pontoons were seen there. About 15 trucks

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25X1 [] were parked on the western bank of the lake. On 25 July, firing with live ammunition by machine guns and guns was practiced in the wooded area between Lake Tornow, Braunsberg and Rheinsberg. [] many tank tracks 25X1
 25X1 on the roads in the wooded area between Lake Tornow, Braunsberg and Rheinsberg. (2)

25X1 [] 12. In early July, [] an MVD unit [] 25X1
 25X1 [] was located at 20 Seeufer in Neuruppin. (3)

25X1 [] Comments.
 (1) The distribution of the component units of the 12th Gds Tank Div in the various barracks installations in Neuruppin apparently remained unchanged until mid-August. The varying strengths reported from the individual installations during the summer may be explained by the extensive exercises held by these units in the Neuruppin-Rheinsberg area. The information contained in paragraph 4 confirms the following components of the 12th Gds Tank Div in Neuruppin until 20 July: Division headquarters which 25X1
 25X1 [] 48th Gds Tank Regt, [] 49th Gds Tank Regt, 25X1
 25X1 [] and 66th Gds Tank Regt, [] in the Fridericus Kaserne. [] The 87th (?) Recon Bn located in the Fridericus Kaserne; administrative officers Lieutenant Colonel Grebenshchikov (fnu) and Zadorosni (fnu) were previously reported [] However, it cannot be determined to what unit these officers belong. Unit Fedonenko, 25X1
 25X1 whose name was previously reported [] as being 25X1
 25X1 Fedonenko, is a repair shop unit. The 226th Art Regt, [] is located in the See Kaserne. The statement []
 25X1 [] an AAA unit, is believed to be correct. 25X1
 25X1 [] confirms the unidentified AAA regiment of the 12th Gds Tank Div as being located in the Friedrich Franz Kaserne in Neuruppin until 20 July.

Except for Gds Major Trushkov (fnu), the officers mentioned by 25X1
 25X1 [] were previously known.
 (2) The area north of Neuruppin is continuously being used by units of the 12th Gds Tank Div which conduct most of their training in the vicinities of their military posts during the summer. This training area extends as far as the vicinity of Rheinsberg. According to weapons observed [], tank units from the Fridericus Kaserne, the unidentified artillery battalion from the Friedrich Franz Kaserne and elements of the 205th Engr Bn from Gentsrode participated in the exercises reportedly observed between 1 and 12 August. The number of 25 x 122-mm field howitzers allegedly observed [] appears to be too high for an artillery battalion. [] confused the gun calibers.

(3) On 17 June 1952, [] reported that the Kreis komendatura had moved to a girls' school on Neustaedter Strasse. See 25X1
 25X1 [] in December 1951 [] a unit [] 25X1
 25X1 allegedly an MGB unit was at 19 Seeufer. [] 25X1
 This unit is believed to be identical with the so-called operational group, which had to vacate its quarters for the Kreis komendatura.

(4) The unidentified unit [] was observed by the 25X1
 25X1 [] in the Schuetzenhaus in November 1951. See 25X1
 25X1 [] In the reference, [] this unit was assigned to the army headquarters in Fuerstenberg. This statement is confirmed []
 25X1 which belong to a headquarters unit of the Second Gds Mech Army in Fuerstenberg. The officers mentioned are reported for the first time.

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